



Florida House of Representatives
Democratic Office

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Democratic Leader

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**HOUSE DEMOCRATIC LEADER STATEMENT REGARDING
FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT CO. RATES AND REGULATION**

TALLAHASSEE -- Florida House Democratic Leader Franklin Sands (D-Weston) issued the following statement today:

“I am closely monitoring recent news coverage concerning Florida Power & Light Company. I remain deeply and seriously concerned about the significant, if not excessive, rate hikes being sought by FPL.

“Florida Power & Light Co. is a stable utility provider and an important component of our business community. But I’m disappointed that FPL is seeking a major rate hike at the wrong time for Floridians. Because of high unemployment, record levels of home foreclosures, and unemployment compensation drying up for many out-of-work Floridians, this is a horribly bad time for families and small businesses to contend with even more exorbitant utility costs.

“Meanwhile, I am aware that news reports suggest that a questionably cozy relationship exists between the Public Service commission and regulated utilities. I have stated publicly on several occasions that state legislators deserve a full and public explanation of how rate hikes are reviewed and approved. Similarly, the public deserves a high level of confidence that any increases in their utility costs are legally justified and well deserved.”

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